
Minutes of the 48th Canadian Society of Biochemistry, Molecular and Cellular Biology Annual General Meeting

Banff Conference Centre, Banff, Alberta

Friday, March 18, 2005, 15:00-17:00 h

Chair: Dr. Joseph R. Casey, President, CSBMCB

Board Members in Attendance: Joseph Casey, David Thomas, John Orlowski, Linda Penn, Dev Mangroo

762. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as circulated on a motion from Dr. Andrews which was seconded by Dr. Thomas.

763. Approval of Minutes of the 47th AGM

No changes were requested. The minutes were approved as circulated on a motion from Dr. Andrews which was seconded by Dr. Thomas.

764. Business Arising from the Minutes

1. The CSBMCB Website needs revision. Drs. Mangroo and Brown have volunteered to monitor the Web pages for errors and areas that need updating, and then communicate this information to Dr. Duronio who is responsible for maintaining the Website.
2. The email survey of our membership regarding advocacy issues was completed by Dr. Casey. A report was written and circulated, and will be included in the upcoming issue of the Bulletin.
3. The next Board meeting will be held in Montreal in October/November 2005.
4. The potential commercial deal with 'Brain Hunter' was cancelled as it was thought to be too restrictive and difficult to implement.
5. Drs. Orlowski and Penn have volunteered to serve as co-Editors of the LINK.

765. President's Report

I. Upcoming CSBMCB Meetings

2006- Planning for the 49th Annual meeting is well under way. A committee headed by Reinhart Reithmeier (University of Toronto) is organizing the meeting "Membrane Proteins in Health and Disease" at Niagara-on-the-Lake (Ontario) from May 31- June 4, 2006.

2007- The 50th Anniversary meeting for CSBM-CB will be something special! David Thomas (McGill) and Eric Brown (McMaster) head the organizing committee for this meeting on "Systems Biology," which will be held in summer 2007 in Montréal, Québec.

2. CSBMCB Awards

One of the most important roles of CSBMCB is to recognize excellence in Canada's biochemists, molecular biologists and cell biologists. In 2005 we awarded the Merck-Frosst Award for meritorious research by a scientist in the first 10 years as an independent scientist jointly to Mark Glover of the Department of Biochemistry, University of Alberta, and Eric Brown of the Department of Biochemistry, McMaster University. Winner of the Roche Diagnostics Award for 2005 was Dr. Chris Bleackley, of the Department of Biochemistry, University of Alberta.

3. Advocacy Survey

Results of our advocacy survey show that many of CSBMCB members are passionate about science

policy and support the CSBMCB in an invigorated approach to advocacy for our member's research interests. The message to us was clear: continue to push the interests of CSBMCB with members of the federal government, but also have a greater dialogue with the granting councils.

4. Science Policy and Advocacy

One of the key roles of CSBMCB is to keep government officials aware of the needs of biochemists, molecular biologists and cell biologists. Our ongoing efforts in this direction include our support of the Canadian Federation of Biological Societies (CFBS). Part of your CSBMCB membership supports the advocacy efforts of CFBS. Bruce Sells, executive director of the Canadian Federation of Biological Societies, has developed excellent contacts with Parliamentarians. Through working with Bruce we have affected CFBS policy and gained access to Parliamentarians for discussions. Clearly the major issue confronting CSBMCB members is sustained, or increased operating budgets and we continue to press this point in all of our meetings with the government. The good news is that advocacy efforts work. Parliamentarians and senior government officials know about the importance of our research, but still need continued polite pressure.

Over the last year we have taken on two new initiatives in our advocacy efforts. First, we helped to sponsor the "Leader's Forum for Health Research in Canada" (see report at <http://www.cfbs.org/newsletterLeadersFrm.html>). The goal of the event was to bring together a wide range of Canadians working in health research, to try to drive a common view and thereby increase research support. We are hopeful that from the Leader's Forum will come more effective advocacy for our research activities. Second, we have begun to develop interactions with the Council for Health Research in Canada (CHRC). CHRC has emerged as an effective group advocating on behalf of health researchers. Since their interests are very much aligned with ours we have begun to work with them, with the hope of affecting their policy to the benefit of CSBMCB members. Working with CHRC we hope to amplify our advocacy efforts.

5. CSBMCB and PENCE

The funding of Protein Engineering Network of Centres of Excellence (PENCE) ended in 2005. The Canadian Proteomics Initiative (CPI), which had its annual conferences sponsored by PENCE, is now considering in what form to continue. Discussions are underway to decide how CSBMCB and CPI/PENCE can interact in the future to benefit both organizations.

6. Membership

CSBMCB needs a strong membership base in order to thrive. Annual membership fees provide the operating budget for the society. Of equal importance is to have a large numerical base of support. When we lobby politicians on policy they want to know how many scientists we represent. How valid is our voice? With a strong membership base we can advocate strongly for Canadian biochemists, molecular biologists and cell biologists. CSBMCB councilor Linda Penn (Toronto) has done a terrific job to build our membership through several initiatives. Among these, Linda has found CSBMCB representatives at departments at Universities across the country. My thanks to those who agreed to take on this task!

7. Communications

We thank CSBMCB Councilor, Frances Sharom (Guelph), for putting the Bulletin together. We also thank CSBMCB Departmental representatives for supplying the departmental news reports! The CSBMCB Link is now one year old. The link is published three times per year and serves as a more regular way to communicate with the CSBMCB. The link contains articles about the science successes of CSBMCB members and reports on science advocacy efforts of the CSBMCB. We thank founding Editor, Caren Helbing (Victoria), for her great work on The Link. John Orlowski (McGill) and Linda Penn (Ontario Cancer Institute) will take over as co-Editors.

8. Thank you(s)

CSBMCB is an active organization with a surprising amount going on behind the scenes. Keeping CSBMCB running requires the efforts of many people, some of whom I would like to thank here. CSBMCB has contracted CFBS to take care of

some of our administrative needs. Wafaa Antonious, CFBS Manager, Administration and Planning, has been tireless in her efforts to keep us on track; from dealing with our electronic communications, to our website and financial affairs. Laila Riad, CFBS Administrative Assistant, has also worked with Wafaa on our behalf. Kim Bournat of the Department of Physiology, University of Alberta, has been very helpful with secretarial assistance, in particular with the advocacy policy survey.

The annual meetings of CSBMCB occur because of the hard work of many people. The 2004 CSBMCB meeting was organized by Terry Hébert (Université de Montréal). Terry put together an outstanding program on "Cell Signaling" From the Membrane to the Nucleus", which was held at Mt. Tremblant Québec.

In most organizations, and CSBMCB is no exception, it is actually the Secretary and Treasurer who do most of the work. This has been particularly true over the last year for our Secretary Albert Clark (Queen's U.) and Treasurer, Vince Duronio (UBC). Vince and Albert have done a terrific job, working with dedication as we all have scrambled to figure out how to function after our long-time Treasurer (Fred Palmer) and Secretary (Gene Tustanoff) retired a year ago.

Each of the members of the CSBMCB board is an active researcher, who has given up their time to attend our board meetings and ensure that the Society runs efficiently and effectively. This year Eric Brown (McMaster), Frances Sharom (Guelph) and Dev Mangroo (Guelph) have infused the board with enthusiasm as new CSBMCB Councilors. David Thomas, Chair of Biochemistry at McGill, has stepped up to act as CSBMCB Vice-President and will be President next year. Caren Helbing (Victoria) has completed her term as Society Councilor, with many thanks for her significant contributions to the editing and production of the last two issues of The LINK! John Orłowski will soon be completing his three years as Vice-President, President and Past-President of CSBMCB. John put tremendous energy and creativity into his time on the CSBMCB executive

and set a great example for those of us following him.

9. Future Outlook

The future looks bright. The current CSBMCB board is energized and full of ideas. The challenge is to convince the government to continue to increase research funding. However, lobbying efforts are paying off. From discussions with the government it is clear they have heard our message. Increasing CSBMCB membership gives us more clout when we lobby. The recent advocacy survey was a shot in the arm; many CSBMCB members feel strongly about policy issues, and thankfully, for the most part our views seem to represent the survey responses. CSBMCB annual meetings continue to be a source of pride. These meetings have attracted considerable positive feedback for their combination of cutting-edge science in enjoyable places. We are certain that the upcoming scheduled meetings will continue to be outstanding. It has been a pleasure to be involved in honouring Canada's amazing scientists with CSBMCB awards.

It was moved by Dr. Thomas and seconded by Dr. Andrews that the President's Report be received.

CARRIED.

766. Past-President's Report

Dr. Orłowski reported that he has been re-organizing the electronic files of the former Secretary, Dr. Gene Tustanoff. Most of these have already been transferred to the new Secretary, Dr. Albert Clark, with the remaining to be transferred shortly. Furthermore, he intends to gradually digitize the older documents of the Society for archival purposes.

Dr. Orłowski also reported that he wrote a brief article to be published in the upcoming edition of the Bulletin summarizing some of the highlights and his impressions of the 2004 AGM held at Mont Tremblant. He also organized and catalogued all the pictures taken at the 2004 AGM for inclusion in the Bulletin.

767. Vice-President's Report

Dr. Thomas began his report by thanking Dr. Casey for his term as President of CSBMCB.

Dr. Thomas next reported on his activities related to advocacy for the CSBMCB community.

1. Advocacy

I attended the CFBS Sixth Annual Strategic Planning Meeting on Saturday, November 20, 2004. This was an interesting meeting with representation from a wide variety of life sciences research organizations both in the academic and government sectors and the granting agencies. A report of the meeting can be found at <http://www.cfbs.org/current.html>. The CFBS certainly represents a large number of Canadian Life Scientists with diverse interests. Whether it can represent all those interests effectively is another question. The value of membership in the CFBS for the CSBMCB may also be somewhat diminished when Bruce Sells retires. I suggest that we revisit the membership of CSBMCB in the CFBS at our next board meeting. Other lobbying and advocacy routes for us could be the 'Partnership Group for Science and Engineering' (PAGSE see <http://www.pagse.org/en/main.htm>) and the 'Council for Health Research in Canada' (CHRC see <http://www.chrc-crsc.ca/>). In addition, Reinhart Reithmeier Chair of the Department of Biochemistry at University of Toronto, has suggested the founding of the Canadian Biochemistry Chairs (provisionally the CBC) as a coordination and advocacy group. The CBC could have advocacy roles with the government and with the granting agencies. I will be helping him set this up.

2. Meetings

The 50th Annual General Meeting of CSBMCB in 2007 will be held in Montreal at the time of the Montreal International Jazz Festival (end of June, beginning of July).

Receipt of Dr. Thomas's report was moved by Dr. Casey and seconded by Dr. Penn.

CARRIED.

768. Treasurer's Report

Dr. Duronio was unable to attend the AGM, but sent along his report (below) which circulated to those in attendance. The report was read by Dr. Casey.

1. Preamble

I'm sorry that I was not able to join you in Banff for this tremendous meeting. I have summarized some of the relevant issues that I've been dealing with. I look forward to hearing from any of you that may have questions.

2. Financial statements

I have attached the financial statements that were submitted for inclusion in the bulletin. They include the audit for 2003 and an unofficial statement for 2004. This was provided by Wafaa, as she enters all financial information and thus can generate reports relatively easily. The only change that should be noted is the additional \$5000 recently promised from the Institute for Cancer Research that will be credited to the income for the 2004 meeting. Thus, our loss for last year will be just under \$6500. However, this is more than made up for by the gain in value of the special fund, which increased year over year by over \$35,000. I am pleased to let you know that the fund value was just over \$401,000 as of March 4th and thus we are benefiting from a favourable market at the moment. The attention provided by Mark Wilson of BMO Nesbitt Burns has been excellent. He speaks to me about every decision in great detail, giving sound rationale for any changes in the investments.

3. CFBS Contract

I have also attached the most recent version of the contract with CFBS, with a breakdown of activities (of Wafaa and Laila) billed to CSBMCB. The amount we paid for 2004 is greater than originally anticipated, but perhaps it might have been expected given that there were a lot of changes occurring last year due to changes in treasurer, secretary, move to completely electronic communication with members, and with a relatively complicated audit. We should wait to see what the 2005 expense will be, and perhaps do a review of the contract to determine whether we are getting good

value. Note that we are paying several dollars for each student or postdoctoral fellow that signs up. While I suppose this is not a big problem, one issue that has been a bit problematic is any paper forms filled out by students. These end up being hard to read in many cases, and the data has to be entered manually. We should not allow such applications, making a policy that student and postdoctoral fellow applications will only be accepted using the online form.

4. Membership

For 2005, I tried to be a bit more pro-active by getting out membership invoices before the end of 2004, and there has been a second notice sent out a couple of weeks ago. As an aside, I realized I should have sent the notices in both English and French – did this with the second one, but not the first. The numbers so far look encouraging. We have somewhere around 220 paid up members. I noted from looking at a recent list that there were at least 22 members who were new, which might be a reflection of the membership drive working. A third invoice will be going out to delinquent members in the next couple of weeks. I suggest I make use of our university reps to make personal contact about a month or so after that. I think this should be no more than 5 or 6 persons per university, so it should not be a big burden. There are also those who may not have paid the last year or two, but are still on our list, and just ignore messages. I have been instructing Laila to remove members from the list when they have not paid for two years, and have not responded to email requests. We are also following up by mail with anyone for whom we do not have an email, or the email doesn't work. Let me know if anyone sees any problem with my approach to this.

5. Website

At our executive meeting, I discussed an online members database, and perhaps other changes to the website. I have not yet had a chance to contact Stephen Lau to get more concrete estimates of cost and what this would look like. I will try to follow up on this soon. Please let me know if anyone has specific ideas for changes – I think we discussed trying to get a completely new design for the site.

Receipt of Dr. Duronio's report was moved by Dr. Thomas and seconded by Dr. Penn.

CARRIED.

769. Secretary's Report

Dr. Clark was unable to attend the AGM. Instead, Dr. Orłowski acted as Secretary. No report was submitted.

770. Councillor's Report

a. CSBMCB University/Research Institute Representatives: Dr. Penn reported that after considerable effort, approximately 40 individuals from institutions across the country have agreed to serve as local representatives/liaisons for the Society. Dr. Penn was thanked and commended for her extraordinary efforts in organizing this initiative.

b. Bulletin: Dr. Sharom was unable to attend the AGM, but communicated to the Board that the 2004 issue of the Bulletin was in press and will be shipped shortly.

771. New Business

a. CSBMCB contract with CFBS: see Treasure's report.

b. Canadian Proteomics Initiative (CPI): Dr. Steve Withers made a brief presentation on behalf of the Canadian Proteomics Initiative (CPI) to establish an alliance with CSBMCB to help support their annual meetings now that their former sponsor, PENCE, will cease to exist as an organization in 2005.

After considerable discussion, a motion was proposed that:

"The Society approve the establishment of a relationship between CPI and CSBMCB, with the goal of maintaining the existence of the CPI. The nature of this relation must be approved by the Board of CSBMCB, and subsequently ratified by both the Boards of CSBMCB and CPI/PENCE by the end of October 2005."

MOTION CARRIED.

c. Presentation on 2006 Annual General Meeting: Dr. Reinhart Reithmeier provided a detailed scientific and financial plan (appended) for the upcoming 49th AGM entitled 'Membrane Proteins in

Health and Disease' to be held at the White Oaks Conference Resort in Niagara-on-the-Lake, Ontario from May 31-June 4, 2006.

Dr. Reithmeier was commended for his fine efforts on what promises to be a very exciting and stimulating meeting.

d. CSBMCB policy on meeting sponsorship: Dr. Casey reported that a draft document describing the Society's policy on sponsoring conferences other than our own AGM should be completed shortly for presentation and final approval by the Board.

e. Other business: Dr. Thomas was sent an email from the Editor of Biochemistry and Cell Biology requesting funding to sponsor a meeting on chromatin structure and epigenetics. The consensus was that a formal proposal should be made before a decision could be reached.

Dr. Reithmeier suggested that the Society should change its name to something simpler. After some discussion, it was generally felt that the current name should be maintained.

772. Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 17:05 PM on a motion from Dr. Casey which was seconded by Dr. Thomas.

APPENDICES

[I]

Treasurer's Report – CSBMCB

Treasurer's note: With the change of the treasurer's office from Dr. Fred Palmer to Dr. Vincent Duronio, a complete audit was undertaken for the 2003 fiscal year (Jan. 1-Dec. 31, 2003) by Ms. Tammy Bastarache (Ottawa, ON) which had not been done for several years. The application of strict accounting rules resulted in some adjustments being made to previous financial statements, but these were primarily due to deferred expenses and revenues. A decision was made by the executive to retain Ms. Bastarache as the society's accountant, and do a yearly audit. In this year's bulletin, I include numbers from the official audit for 2003, as well as an unofficial financial statement for 2004.

[II]

49th Annual Meeting and Conference of the Canadian Society of Biochemistry, Molecular and Cellular Biology (CSBMCB/SCBBMC)

Membrane Proteins in Health and Disease

ORGANIZING COMMITTEE

Reinhart Reithmeier (Chair), University of Toronto (r.reithmeier@utoronto.ca)

David Andrews, McMaster University (andrewsd@mcmaster.ca)

Frances Sharom, University of Guelph (fsharom@uoguelph.ca)

Joseph Casey, University of Alberta (joe.casey@ualberta.ca)

Jean-Yves Lapointe, Université de Montréal (jean-yves.lapointe@umontreal.ca)

Rob Reedijk (Administrative Assistant), University of Toronto (rob.reedijk@utoronto.ca)

DATE

Wednesday, May 31, 2006-Sunday, June 4, 2006

LOCATION

White Oaks Conference Resort

253 Taylor Road

Niagara-on-the-Lake

Ontario, Canada L0S 1J0

www.whiteoaksresort.com

Tel: 1-905-688-2550 or 1-800-263-5766

The five star White Oaks Conference Resort and Spa is located in Niagara-on-the-Lake just off Queen Elizabeth Way, about 1 h drive from Toronto or Buffalo. The Resort is completely non-smoking and features a superb fitness/sports club and spa. It is central to Niagara's best wineries, golf courses, hiking trails and is very close to Niagara Falls with all its attractions. Sessions are held in the morning and evening, with afternoons free to partake in other activities.

HOTEL CONTACT

Randi Etherington

Tel: 1-905-704-5685 or 1-800-263-5766, ext. 5685

Reinhart Reithmeier will be the contact person

REGISTRATION

Meeting Hotel/CSBMCB
Accommodation Hotel

REGISTRATION FEES

Faculty (non-member)	\$400
Faculty (member)	\$325
Students and Fellows (non-members)	\$350
Students and Fellows (members)	\$275

Off-site registration supplement (coffee breaks, breakfast, lunch and dinner) \$150 per day (\$600 total)

ACCOMMODATION

- 200 rooms reserved (both single and double)
- 4 nights includes breakfast, lunch and dinner plus continuous coffee breaks

\$704 (\$176 per person per night double occupancy) + gratuity and taxes (~\$910 total)

\$1012 (\$253 per person per night single occupancy) + gratuity and taxes (~\$1,300 total)

PARTICIPANTS

Goal is 250 people (includes 30 Speakers and members of Organizing Committee)

FACILITIES

Grand Event Room A/B

Lecture seating for up to 300

Grand Event Room C

Poster and exhibit display

Lobby

Registration desk and coffee breaks

Sunhill Dining Room

Breakfast, lunch and dinner for 250

Studio 8

Board meeting (15 people)

Ballroom

Saturday banquet with wine

MEALS

Breakfast

Morning coffee break

Lunch

Afternoon coffee break at posters

Dinner

Banquet on Saturday with wine

Cash bar (Thursday and Friday, 4:00-6:00 pm) with poster sessions

Cash bar (Thursday and Friday, 10:00-12:00 pm) with poster sessions

AUDIOVISUAL

- Large white screen in Grand Event Room
- LCD projector(s) with backup projector
- Podium with microphone (wireless)
- Pointer
- Table for laptops

POSTER BOARDS

- 25 double-sided poster boards (4' high x 6-8' wide) to be rented and delivered
- Exhibitor space (10 exhibitors @ 10 ft x 10 ft each) in coffee area

ABSTRACTS AND POSTERS

Frances Sharom

- Abstract submission, template, poster competition, travel awards, oral presentation
- Poster judging
- Travel awards

CSBMCB LIAISON

Joe Casey

- Web site
- Awards lectures, travel awards, banquet, poster awards, plaques,
- Merck Frosst Representatives

BIOCHEMISTRY AND CELL BIOLOGY

SPECIAL ISSUE

Editors: Carol Cass and Joel Weiner

Meeting Report: Frances Sharom

Papers and abstracts

FUND RAISING AND EXHIBITOR

BOOTHS

David Andrews and Jean-Yves Lapointe

FRENCH TRANSLATION

Jean-Yves Lapointe

CIHR TRAINING PROGRAM SYMPOSIUM

Wednesday, May 31, 2005 2:00-5:00 p.m with coffee and cookies

Charles Deber

BUDGET

EXPENSES

Speakers Costs	
30 speakers @ \$1,000 travel	\$30,000
Accommodation 30 @\$1,300	\$40,000
Transportation for speakers from and to airport	\$ 3,000
Web-site set-up for registration	\$ 1,500
Advertising (web-site, posters)	\$ 2,000
Opening mixer (1 free drink, snacks)	\$ 3,000*
Poster Board Rentals (25 Boards)	\$ 3,000
Wine for Banquet (100 bottles @ \$30)	\$ 3,000*
Icewine gift for Speakers (30 @ \$35)	\$ 1,000*
Miscellaneous office costs/room rentals	\$ 2,000
Administrative Assistant	\$ 2,000
Coffee Breaks	Included
Lecture and Dining Room Rentals	Included
Audiovisuals	Included
Accommodation for registrants	Directly with hotel
Total	\$90,500

*sponsored events

REVENUES

Registration (200 total)	
50 Faculty (Members) @\$325	\$16,250
50 Faculty (Non-members) @ \$400	\$20,000
50 Graduate Students and Fellows (Members)@ \$275	\$13,750
50 Graduate Students and Fellows (Non-members)@\$350	\$17,500
CSBMCB (refundable)	\$ 5,000
CIHR Training Grants	\$10,000
Department of Biochemistry (Toronto)	\$ 2,000
Other Departments	\$10,000
Exhibitors (10 @ \$2,000)	\$20,000
Sponsors (corporations)	\$10,000
Total	\$112,500

TRAVEL AWARDS

Expenses
Revenues

POSTER PRIZES

Expenses
Revenues
Exhibitors booths (10 @ \$2,000 each, free registration for 2)

SPONSORS

CSBMCB	\$5,000
Department of Biochemistry, University of Toronto	\$2,000
CIHR	
CIHR Training Program in Structural Biology of Membrane Proteins Linked to Disease	\$5,000
CIHR training Program in Membrane Proteins and Cardiovascular Disease	\$5,000